

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN AND ROMANIAN PRESIDENT
ADDRESS MIDEAST ISSUE

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1. SUMMARY: IN REMARKS DELIVERED AT STATE BANQUET FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, KING HUSSEIN TOOK COMPARATIVELY HARD LINE ON ISRAEL, STRESSING NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK, PARTICULARLY FROM JERUSALEM, AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ADVOCATED ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REMARKS DELIVERED AT STATE BANQUET EVENING OF ARRIVAL APRIL 14 (FBIS JN 142359), KING DWELT AT LENGTH ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, NOTING THAT AGGRESSION AGAINST PALESTINIAN
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PEOPLE BEGAN MORE THAN QUARTER CENTURY AGO, DURING

WHICH TIME JORDAN HAS BORNE BRUNT OF AGGRESSION "PERHAPS UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY". KING SINGLED OUT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AS CAUSE OF CONTINUED SUFFERINGS OF ARABS, PARTICULARLY PALESTINIANS. "FROM THE BEGINNING, ISRAEL HAS CLOSED ALL ROADS TO ALL JUST SOLUTIONS..., AND SHE MAY BE PURSUING THIS COURSE WITH EVEN MORE OBSTINACY AND DETERMINATION. IF THE ARABS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT PEACE, ISRAEL HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DO THIS FOR THEM, AND IN THE END HAS CONVINCED ALL THE WORLD."

3. KING CALLED FOR REALIZATION OF TWO JUST DEMANDS: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, "THE FOREMOST OF WHICH IS JERUSALEM", AND RECOGNITION OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. "WITHOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE DEMANDS, WE DO NOT SEE ANY HOPE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND PERHAPS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD."

4. KING ELABORATED ON DIFFICULTY OF POOR COUNTRIES DEVOTING RESOURCES TO DEVELOPMENT WHEN EVENTS FORCE THEM TO DIVERT FUNDS TO MAINTAIN LARGE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, NOTING, HOWEVER, THE HE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHOWING CEAUSESCU WHAT JORDAN HAS MANAGED TO ACHIEVE.

5. IN RESPONSE (FBIS JN 151045), CEAUSESCU STRESSED TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND ARAB STATES AND NOTED THAT BASIC CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN WORLD. STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, PARTICULARLY AFTER FAILURE OF KISSINGER MISSION, AND CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST PEACE BASED ON FINDING SOLUTION THROUGH POLITICAL EFFORTS. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID, ROMANIA CONSIDERS GENEVA NECESSARY, AND HE REFERRED TO "THE NEED TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THIS CONFERENCE SO AS TO INCLUDE OTHER STATES...." IN ADDITION, CEAUSESCU CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL TO 1967 LINES AND RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS "AS WELL AS THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL STATE". JORDAN, HE ADDED, HAS LARGE ROLE TO PLAY, AS DOES UN.

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6. ALMOST ALL JORDANIAN DAILY PAPERS APRIL 15 HEADLINED KING'S CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, NOTING REPEATEDLY THAT THESE ARE "TWO STIPULATIONS FOR PEACE". HOWEVER, JORDANIAN PRESS ONLY BRIEFLY MENTIONED AND FAILED TO GIVE ANY PROMINENCE TO CEAUSESCU'S REMARKS SUPPORTING RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO ESTABLISH

A STATE.

7. COMMENT: WE WERE STRUCK BY RELATIVELY
HARSH TONE OF KING'S REMARKS REGARDING ISRAEL IN
COMPARISON WITH HIS NORMAL RHETORIC. THIS HARDENED
LINE HOWEVER CONTINUES THE TREND IN KING'S PUBLIC APPROACH
STARTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SUSPENSION OF KISSINGER MISSION.
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